



Government Legal Department

Bona Vacantia Division (BVD)
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Our reference: BVFOI/210/15 re John McKenna

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

You asked for the following information from the Government Legal Department ("the Department"):

Could you please confirm what information the division holds and what evidence do you have that states the date of birth is in fact 09/08/1918. Is this in the form of a birth certificate?

Does the division hold any personal effects of the deceased?

Your request will be dealt with by the Bona Vacantia Division ("the Division") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have interpreted your request to mean that you require any information that we hold about the deceased's origins and/or extended family that will help you find entitled kin.

The Division holds some of the information that you have requested.

Information held by the Division regarding the date of the deceased's birth can be found on his death and birth certificates. Information concerning the dates and places of birth and death can be found on the unclaimed estates list.

Certificates can be obtained from the local Registrar where the event took place or from the General Registrar Office (GRO), PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD or by telephoning 0845 603 7788. Further details can be obtained from the GRO's website at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/register-offices>.

The unclaimed estates list can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list>.

The information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Act. This exemption confers absolute exemption from the requirement to provide information pursuant to section 1(1)(b) of the Act.

I have withheld certain information from the file regarding the deceased's identity as it is exempt from disclosure under section 41 of the Act as the Division considers that the information was received in confidence, and that to reveal the information would constitute an actionable breach of the duty of confidence

In considering whether disclosure would be an actionable breach of confidence the Division has considered whether there is a public interest in disclosing the information that would outweigh the public interest in keeping the information confidential.

There is a strong public interest in keeping confidential information that has been disclosed in confidence, and in this case there is no specific reason in favour of disclosure of the information. Disclosure would not protect public safety, nor would it expose wrongdoing such as misfeasance, maladministration, negligence or other iniquity on the part of the Division. In this case the Division considers that the public interest in keeping the information confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Information is available in large print, audiotape and Braille formats
Please also visit our website: www.gov.uk



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The Division does not hold any personal effects.